Committee on Government Reform
Tom Davis, Chairman

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release   **Contact: David Marin/Scott Kopple**
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The Integration Challenge:
Government Reform Committee to Review Status of
Information Sharing at Homeland Security Department

What: Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing: "Out of Many, One: Assessing Barriers to Information Sharing in the Department of Homeland Security"

When: Thursday, May 8, 2003, 10:00am

Where: Room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building

Background:

Defending America in the war against terrorism requires every level of government to **work together** with citizens and the private sector. The newly created Department of Homeland Security faces monumental challenges in its critical mission to protect the nation by sharing essential information on combating terrorism among federal, state, local, and private sector entities. *The combination of 22 agencies and 170,000 employees into one integrated department in itself poses significant information management challenges.*

The crucial nature of the Department's mission -- to protect the nation from terrorist and cyber attacks and develop responses to such attacks -- adds urgency to achieving this integration expeditiously, efficiently, and effectively.

The hearing will examine the current status of the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to integrate information sharing functions both among the 22 agencies comprising the new Department, as well as between the Department and other federal, state, and local entities and private sector stakeholders.

Effective use of accurate information from divergent sources is critical to the success of the Department. For example, the effective integration of information systems reduces response times for emergency response workers, and wise investment in interoperable information technology reduces unnecessary spending in redundant or stovepiped systems. As we have seen, the terrorists of September 11th generated transactions and data points across numerous systems – including visas,

border crossings, traffic stops, cash transactions, airline tickets, and others. We must concentrate on how to "connect the dots" effectively so that the vast amount of information now available can be analyzed and shared, and so that appropriate actions can be taken to prevent further terrorism. **An integral component of achieving this objective is the development and implementation of information sharing by the Department.**

Panel One Witnesses:
Mr. Steve Cooper, Chief Information Officer, Department of Homeland Security
Mr. Mark Forman, Associate Director, Information Technology and E-Government, Office of Management and Budget

Panel Two Witnesses:
Mr. Robert Dacey, Director, Information Technology Team, General Accounting Office
Mr. Randolph C. Hite, Director, Architecture and Systems Issues, Information Technology, General Accounting Office
Mr. Charles Rossotti, former Commissioner; Internal Revenue Service

Panel Three Witnesses:
Mr. Greg Baroni, President, Global Public Sector, Unisys Corporation
Mr. Steven Perkins, Senior Vice President for Public Sector & Homeland Security, Oracle Corporation
Mr. Mark Bisnow, Senior Vice President, webMethods, Inc.

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